

Please add new claims 45-55 as follows:

--45. The monoclonal antibody according to claim 23, which enables the immunoaffinity purification of said protein to give a purity of at least 95% with a yield of nearly 100%.

--46. The monoclonal antibody according to claim 23, wherein said monoclonal antibody is produced by a hybridoma resulting from the fusion of an infinitely proliferating cell and an antibody-producing cell isolated from a mammal immunized with the protein.

--47. A method for detecting a protein by immunoreaction, comprising the steps of:

contacting the monoclonal antibody of claim 23 with a test sample to effect immunoreaction in the presence of a protein in the test sample to which the monoclonal antibody ^{binds} is specific, wherein the protein has a molecular weight of 19 ± 5 kDa as determined by gel filtration or non-reducing SDS-PAGE and a pI of 4.8 ± 1.0 as determined by chromatofocusing, comprises the amino acid sequences set forth as residues 26-43 and 79-103 of SEQ ID NO:2, and is capable of inducing IFN- γ production by immunocompetent cells; and

detecting the protein by immunoreaction with the monoclonal antibody.

--48. A purified protein which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 where Xaa represents methionine or threonine.

--49. A monoclonal antibody ^{which binds} specific to the protein of claim 1.

--50. The monoclonal antibody according to claim 49, which belongs to the class of IgG or IgM.

--51. A hybridoma capable of producing the monoclonal antibody of claim 49.

--52. A method for detecting a protein by immunoreaction, comprising the steps of:

contacting the monoclonal antibody of claim 49 with a test sample to effect immunoreaction in the presence of a protein in the test sample to which the monoclonal antibody ^{binds} is specific, wherein said protein has a molecular weight of 19 ± 5 kDa as determined by gel filtration or non-reducing SDS-PAGE and a pI of 4.8 ± 1.0 as determined by chromatofocusing, comprises the amino acid sequences set forth as residues 26-43 and 79-103 of SEQ ID NO:2, and is capable of inducing IFN- γ production by immunocompetent cells; and

detecting the protein by immunoreaction with the monoclonal antibody.

--53. An IFN- γ production inducing agent which contains, as an effective ingredient, the protein of claim 48.

--54. A therapeutic agent comprising a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier and, as an effective ingredient, the protein of claim 48.

--55. A purified protein obtainable from mouse liver, which has a molecular weight of 19 ± 5 kDa as determined by gel filtration or non-reducing SDS-PAGE and a pI of 4.8 ± 1.0 as determined by chromatofocusing, has a homologous amino acid sequence to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 where Xaa